



Youth Services Advisory Board Meeting
February Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Members in Attendance: Patty Van de Bogart, Ian Schachner, Khaki Wunderlich, Marnie Kirchgessner, Jennifer Foote-Dean, Lisa Monroe, Pat Buechel, , Leonardo Vargas-Mendez and Randy Brown,

Members not in Attendance: Mike Jordan, Susan Ainslie, and Kate Kelley-Mackenzie

Staff: Rick Alvord and Kate Shanks-Booth

Guest(s): Ruth Merle-Doyle, Michelle Nollan (LW), and Olan Mack (LW)

Welcome - Meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm

Items to be voted on: We did not have quorum so we could not vote on these

- October 22' Minutes
- November 22' Minutes
- 2023 Slate of Officers
 - Chair – Patty Van de Bogart
 - Vice Chair – Khaki Wunderlich
 - Secretary – Lisa Monroe

Presentation: Learning Web by Olan Mack and Michelle Nolan

- Olan introduced the staff present, and gave a brief overview of the history to the board
- Every program that the LW has, the county funds some portion of via the youth services and social services of TC
- Leadership changes have been an issue, and staffing turnover has also been an issue. Olan thinks that they are at a place now with leadership and the employees that they can move forward
- Michelle introduced herself, the new Director of Operations, and provided a presentation on the programming at the Learning Web.
- Main principles are Positive Youth Development
 - Youth Exploration Program
 - Youth Outreach Program
- She provided some data on each program, and then gave her own experience as a future employee at TST BOCES.
- Khaki questioned some of her data, Olan said that the data needed to be updated, and we determined that they would provide that to us later.
- Outreach served over 300 youth in 2022 in one way or another.
- Ian asked about YEP, if there was any increase focus on entering the trades, or introducing youth of all ages to that career path? Also, asking about the decarbonization effort, as that is a huge need in the future? There are not enough people for this field either.
- Michelle said that the trades are a passion of hers, and she was meeting with David (YEP Coordinator) and trying to determine how they might get the number of visits to the trades to increase.

- Randy asked about the supportive housing program, and transitional housing funded by the YHDP monies that came in from HUD.
- Olan talked about the housing portion of what they do now, and they he spoke a bit about the funding that they received via YHDP.
- Randy mentioned an empty building on State Street, and that might be a point of discussion.
- Kate noted that CoC provided YHDP and reminded that the board that they had prior conversations about that previously in 2022.
- Kate also mentioned that OET has purchased or will be purchasing a couple of headsets that will allow students to do virtually some of the trades work that they used to have to go onsite to do, which increases access and removed risk of personal safety, until they are ready to do in person.
- Michelle said that the trends that they are seeing in 28 applications added to the pool of mentorship, youth have interest in paid placements. Additionally, they have seen food scarcity, TC3 Referrals (not sure why), and an increase in participates that identify as non-binary.
- Ian asked why the increase in paid placements? Is it specific to their programs and other programs?
- Michelle said she could not speak to that but selling unpaid opportunities to youth is hard to do. Kate added there has been a lot of conversation of unpaid mentorship/apprenticeships verses paid opportunities. The language around authentic youth voice has changed, and now we compensate youth for their time and efforts is a place that most programs are moving towards, and she believed will just become common place in the future.
- Randy said that like the Learning Web, it seems like most companies and nonprofits are rebuilding right now, but he said that there is lot of skilled worked in the county. He said that he believed that we needed to pay mentors, welders, or farmers for example.
- Marnie asked how big the staff is? Olan said 10 positions, and 2 additional paid for by the YHDP funds.
- Updated us on the new location, they have washer/dryers and showers for youth, and said they would be happy to provide a tour soon for the board.
- Michelle said that they are working with the Salvation Army, they have provided seven apartments that the LW will fill with 7 youth who are currently living in their other units. This will open up those spaces for other youth who are on the waitlist.
- The wrapped up the presentation, by thanking us for our funding for the Learning Web.

Director's Report

Discussion: 2023 Goal Setting Process

- Vitality Checklist that the board completed prior to the list was send out in advance to the whole board.
- Patty lead a board discussion on the outcomes of the VC, and asked if the board wanted to move forward with the goals as they are currently laid out.
- The board needs to set up a committee to oversee the recruitment and retention of board members.
- Pat said that quorum issue, she said that it really bothers her, and she didn't think it hadn't happened in the months. We haven't voted on the minutes, slate of officers for 23', and she asked why that is the case. She wants us to work on recruitment we have this be a goal.
- Khaki said that we are supposed to send Ian and Jen's application to the TC Legislature.
- There needs to be a quarter report on the goals, and expectations around the Resource Allocation Process and the RFPs that are put out.

- Ian jumped in and said that he could not agree with that more, and he believed it was the single most impactful way of learning the way the department functions.
- Khaki said that we need to rethink how we reframe the way we introduce the RAC, and not say how much work it is, but rather that it is a great way to deepen their understanding.
- Patty said that they might want to create a buddy system to get more folks to attend the Town Board meetings or Youth Commissions/Community Council meetings.
- Khaki wants to make sure the message about why we are attending these meetings is made clear, and that they don't feel we are watching them.
- Marnie said that part of this is that people who join the board want to help kids and their families, and if they naturally want to do that, most of this will follow naturally.
- Randy said that he looks at himself as a youth advocate, and the HHS is looking at how they communicate and reach people. He said that they are talking about SNAP, and he would like to add youth services.
- Khaki asked what the value of her going to a random Town or Village of Dryden? Randy said that he tries to share information with them, to let them know that there is opportunity that are happening around the county.
- At the end of the meeting, Kate pulled together a summary of the Vitality Checklist Summary that was sent out to the board to help them focus their attention. She provided a draft of goals with some updated language and some metrics below each. The idea would be that there would be three different committees who would oversee and work on the individual goals.
- Khaki asked about Youth Voice, and the idea is that we could have various youth boards around town and we could invite them to come attend our meeting, or we could attend their meetings?
- Kate said as long as we get permission from the group, yes, we can attend their meetings.
- Marnie asked about the Photo Voice, did we have a presentation? Kate said it was a great idea, and she would ask Shelley to do a presentation.
- Khaki said that she wanted to make sure that those groups want us to know? How do we get unfiltered information.
- Katie said she would mail this out to everyone.

New/Old Business

Adjourn Next meeting:

- March 27, 2023, at 5 pm.

The meeting was called at 6:38 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kate Shanks-Booth